



# Public Health Update

## August 4, 2011

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## Rabies

US CDC and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with assistance from Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and Suburban Hospital-Johns Hopkins Medicine, have developed an online course to educate healthcare providers and public health professionals about rabies, the approach used in evaluating patients for rabies virus exposure, and the administration of rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). There is no cost to view the course or to receive continuing education credit. The course is available at:

<http://ideha.dhmm.maryland.gov/training/rabies/Default.aspx>

As a reminder to clinicians, PEP for rabies is reportable in Maine.

The second quarter animal rabies update for Maine is now available at

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=277584&an=1>

## Human subjects research protections

US HHS has released an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled "Human Subjects Research Protections: Enhancing Protections for Research Subjects and Reducing Burden, Delay, and Ambiguity for Investigators." They are seeking the public's input on issues related to the ethics, safety, and oversight of human research, before making changes to the current regulations, which have been in place since 1991. For more information, see this Federal Register notice: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-26/html/2011-18792.htm>

## Pertussis

Between Jan. 1 and July 22, 72 pertussis cases were reported to Maine CDC, compared to 20 cases reported for the same period in 2010. Clusters of pertussis cases have been reported in schools, camps, sport teams, and workplaces with the largest number of clusters identified in Penobscot county. Cases range in age from 1 month to 79 years. One infant has recently been hospitalized with life-threatening symptoms.

Pertussis is a highly communicable, vaccine-preventable disease that can last for many weeks. It is transmitted through direct contact with the respiratory secretions of infected people. Symptoms include cough, paroxysms, whoop, and post-tussive vomiting. Pertussis can cause serious illness in infants, children, and adults and can even be life-threatening, especially in infants. More than half of infants less than 1 year of age who get pertussis must be hospitalized.

For more information and clinical guidance, please see this Health Alert issued on July 28:

<http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=277714&an=1>

# Influenza

Maine CDC has issued a letter (<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/maineflu/2011-2012-Provider-Influenza-Letter%20Final.pdf>) to health care providers who have registered with the Maine Immunization Program to offer state-supplied flu vaccine describing vaccine availability for the 2011-12 season.

For the 2011-12 season, Maine CDC plans to provide seasonal influenza vaccine for:

- All Maine children ages 6 months to 18 years-old
- Employees of schools that provide onsite vaccine clinics on school days
- Pregnant women and their partners (through health care providers who routinely care for pregnant women)
- Nursing home employees and residents
- Any underinsured or uninsured adult in any setting (for patients who do not have insurance or whose insurance does not cover vaccines)
- All individuals served by Tribal health centers and Municipal Health Departments

Information on the vaccine ordering process will be posted at [www.maineclu.gov](http://www.maineclu.gov) later this month. Tools and resources for those conducting school-located vaccine clinics (SLVC) will also be updated later this month.

FDA has approved the 2011-12 influenza vaccine formulation for all six manufacturers licensed to produce and distribute flu vaccine for the US: [http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm263319.htm?utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm263319.htm?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter)

**NEW:** The Vaccine Information Statements for seasonal flu have been posted at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#flu>

# Breastfeeding

Childhood obesity is an epidemic. In the US, 1 preschooler in 5 is at least overweight, and half of these are obese. Breastfeeding helps protect against childhood obesity. A baby's risk of becoming an overweight child goes down with each month of breastfeeding. In the US, most babies start breastfeeding, but within the first week, half have already been given formula, and by 9 months, only 31% of babies are breastfeeding at all. Hospitals can either help or hinder mothers and babies as they begin to breastfeed.

This month's *Vital Signs* feature from US CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/>) focuses on hospital support for breastfeeding. The related MMWR is available at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm60e0802a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm60e0802a1\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm60e0802a1.htm?s_cid=mm60e0802a1_x)

US CDC's Breastfeeding Report Card (<http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/reportcard.htm>) shows that Maine ranked third in the nation for percent of live births occurring at baby-friendly facilities and tied for third in the nation for State Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care scores from birthing facilities.

# New resources and reports

Maine CDC's vector-borne diseases web site (<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/vector-borne/index.shtml>) has been updated with additional resources and surveillance reports, including:

- Tick-borne Disease Surveillance Report 2010: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/publications/2010-tbd-surveillance-report.pdf>
- Lyme County Rate Map 2010: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/vector-borne/lyme/2010-Rate-County.pdf>
- Mosquito-borne Illness Surveillance Report 2010: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/publications/2010-arboviral-surveillance-report.pdf>

The following fact sheets have been updated on the Maine CDC web site:

- Vibriosis: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/disease/vibriosis.shtml>
- Campylobacter: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/disease/campylobacter.shtml>
- Shigellosis: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/disease/shigellosis.shtml>
- Giardiasis: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/disease/giardia.shtml>

US CDC has created new data and analysis tools that are intended to serve as resources in the promotion of policy, system and environmental changes to improve health. These tools are accessible at [http://www.cdc.gov/program/data/index.htm?s\\_cid=tw\\_cdc720](http://www.cdc.gov/program/data/index.htm?s_cid=tw_cdc720)

## Infectious Disease Conference

Since 1983, Maine CDC's Division of Infectious Disease has organized an annual infectious disease conference targeting public health issues of emerging concern to medical practitioners throughout the state. This year's conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Nov. 15** at the Augusta Civic Center. Issues presented will include challenges in controlling infectious diseases, information on responding to new disease threats, and clinical updates and approaches. Registration fees, including the program, lunch, breaks, & CEUs, are \$35 on or before 10/24/11 and \$50 on or after 10/25/11. Space is limited.

The event brochure and agenda are available at:  
[http://www.neias.org/mecdc/pdf/IDconferencebrochureFinal\(2\).pdf](http://www.neias.org/mecdc/pdf/IDconferencebrochureFinal(2).pdf) For more information and to register:  
<http://adcarecdc.neias.org/idhome/>

## Stay updated

Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:

- **Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/MaineCDC](http://www.facebook.com/MaineCDC))
- **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth>)
- **Blog** (<http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com>)

For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance, call Maine CDC's toll free 24-hour phone line at: 1-800-821-5821

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You may subscribe to these updates for free through an RSS feed at <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/rss.php?tid=1049>. In Internet Explorer and Firefox, you will be prompted to Subscribe to the Feed and then select the folder where feeds are stored.